

Remarks

Claim 1 has been amended to identify the mechanism for releasably securing the arm member to the dipper stick as a “latching means”. It would appear that such amendment would provide an antecedental basis for the term “latching means” in claim 5 and further would relate the structure recited in claim 5 to the latching means referred to in claim 1.

Applicant submits that it would not be obvious to modify the grappling assembly disclosed in the patent to Hawkins as purportedly taught by Pippins to arrive at the claimed invention. Reconsideration of such rejection respectfully is requested in view of the following comments.

The present invention relates to an assembly mountable on the dipper stick of a machine for grappling articles such as tree trunks, broken branches, large rocks and the like. The principal object of the invention is to provide a grappling arm of such an assembly which may be readily repositioned between operative and inoperative positions remotely by a machine operator without having to disrupt the operation of the machine, precede to the vicinity of the assembly and manually reposition and secure such arm. In contrast, the Pippins patent relates to dragline machines and more particularly to various methods and devices for retaining and replacing tooth points on tooth assemblies of drag line buckets. The principal object of the Pippins patent is to provide a tooth assembly in which tooth points which are subject to wear and require periodic replacement are readily replaceable. A person having ordinary skill in the art of grappling assemblies seeking to devise a method for remotely repositioning an arm member of a grapple assembly, between retracted and extended positions, would not be likely to refer or resort to the dragline machine art and particularly to methods of readily replacing tooth points on dragline buckets for any teaching of a solution to any problem.

Assuming a person having ordinary in the art of grappling assemblies was inclined to look to the dragline machine art for a solution to a problem, it is submitted that Pippins does not teach the use of a trippable retaining mechanism for releasably securing an arm member of a grappling assembly to a dipper stick. The embodiment shown in Figure 8 of Hawkins which utilizes a hydraulic cylinder for pivoting arm member 13 describes no means for securing arm member 13 in the retracted position except for utilizing a pin 30 as shown in

Figures 1 and 2 for manually securing the arm member to a frame mounted on the underside of the dipper stick. At most, Pippins teaches replacing pin 30 of Hawkins with a pin as shown in Figures 8 and 9 of Pippin to facilitate its manual insertion and removal.

Assuming it was obvious to replace retaining pin 30 of Hawkins with a readily insertable and removable pin as shown in Figures 8 and 9 of Pippins, such resulting structure still would not provide the claimed invention because such resultant structure would not provide a trippable retaining mechanisms which was functional to provide for an arm member to be attached and detached relative to a dipper stick, upon pivotal movement of the arm member. Clearly, there is no instruction or teaching in Pippin to insert a pin as shown in Figures 8 and 9 of Pippin in the arm member B of Hawkins so that the ball bearings 203 or springs 213 of such a pin would be caused to extend or retract as arm member B is pivoted to correspondingly retain or release the arm as in the claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing, it respectfully is requested that the rejection of Applicant's be withdrawn, such claims be allowed and further that the application be passed to issue.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 14-1437.

Respectfully submitted,


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